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Mr. W. Kenneth Ferree
Chief, Media Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 3-C754
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Digital Broadcast Copy Protection
MB Docket No. 02-230
Ex parte presentation

Dear Mr. Ferree:

When we testified last week before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property, you will recall that Mr. Black argued that Internet redistribution of HD programming is not a real problem because file sizes are so large.

In that regard, the attached article may be of some interest to you. It notes that "Internet 2" researchers were able to send 6.7 gigabytes of data half way around the globe in under a minute (at a rate of 923 Mbps per second). As a frame of reference, a DVD holds 4.7 gigabytes (the article says 6.7 gigabytes is the equivalent of two full-length DVD quality movies but that may be a slight overstatement). As another frame of reference, according to HD experts, 6.7 gigabytes of data is the equivalent of close to one hour of broadcast quality HD programming using today's compression standards (one hour of HDTV programming at 19 Mbps is said to yield an 8.4 GB file) or roughly two hours of programming using emerging compression standards like MPEG-4 Part 10.

While Internet 2 is still in developmental stages in the labs of selected universities and research institutions, consider that many in the high-tech industries are lobbying for 100 Mbps broadband, which is basically 1/10 the speed achieved in the test referred to in this article. If even 100 Mbps broadband were achieved, that would mean the transfer of the same amount of data as in the test referred to could be accomplished in under 10 minutes.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

cc: Marlene H. Dortch

BBC NEWS

Net speed record smashed

By Dr David Whitehouse
BBC News Online science editor

Scientists have set a new internet speed record by transferring 6.7 gigabytes of data across 10,978 kilometres (6,800 miles), from Sunnyvale in the US to Amsterdam in Holland, in less than one minute

Using a quantity of data equivalent to two feature-length DVD-quality movies, the transfer was accomplished at an average speed of more than 923 megabits per second, or more than 3,500 times faster than a typical home broadband connection.

Les Cottrel, of Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (Slac) Computer Services, said: "By exploring the edges of internet technologies' performance envelope, we will bring high-speed data transfer to practical everyday applications."

He added that potential uses included: "Doctors at multiple sites sharing and discussing a patient's cardio-angiographs to diagnose and plan treatment; or disaster recovery experts sharing information across the globe in near real-time to develop recovery and relief plans."

Next generation

The data were sent across the Internet2 network. This is operated by a consortium of 200 universities working in a worldwide effort to develop and deploy tomorrow's internet.

It is intended to connect and serve research and educational institutions at transmission speeds that allow near-instant transfer of hundreds of megabytes of data.

The motivation for the record was the need to transfer and analyse the vast amounts of data produced by particle physicists studying the fundamental building blocks of matter.

Raymond Orbach, director of the US Energy Department's Office of Science, said: "It underlines the tradition in particle physics of groundbreaking work in manipulation and transfer of enormous datasets."

Harvey Newman, professor of physics at Caltech, said: "The largest high-energy experiments are already dealing with data stores approaching the petabyte range and we expect this to increase by a factor of 1,000 over the next decade."

During its research, Slac has accumulated the largest known database in the world, which grows at one terabyte per day.

Story from BBC NEWS:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/technology/2822333.stm

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